

FB post 9-3-2025

So, let's be clear about a couple of things. This is going to be an extended post, so it's up to you if you want to read it all. And secondly, none of this affects your religious faith. What you believe is enacted in what you do. But the universe is impassive as to your beliefs, no matter how passionately held.

Gravity as a term has been redefined over time. This is not because individuals (or science as whole) have been wrong, but because refinement of ideas is a natural process. An improvement of precision. Firstly Gravity was simply a phenomenon. This is how Galileo knew it. Things fell toward the earth. But why? No one really knew. Then Newton recognised that gravity, as a force of attraction between objects, could be calculated. This was a great boon to us all, as it enabled us to work out the orbits of planets, and other celestial objects. Then along came Einstein, who in General Relativity explained that gravity wasn't a force after all. It was a 'curvature' of space and time itself. This led to the discovery of black holes, amongst other things.

Evolution was more controversial. For a great many generations people around the world had believed (to a greater or lesser extent) that their God had had a hand in their creation. But this assertion wasn't particularly plausible, in the light of lack of evidence. Careful study by biologists recognised that characteristics of plants and animals could be handed down from generation to generation by cross-breeding (through the work of Gregor Mendel amongst others). So how did this function in the unmanaged natural world? Darwin looked at how animals developed independently from one another when in geographic isolation, and realised that (over a GREAT many generations), entire species of creatures could develop (evolve) via the way in which they interacted with their environment. This was natural selection. An animal, a plant, an insect, or a primate, reacted to the environment in which they lived. Those that survived the rigours of the world in which they lived, achieved maturity and passed their genes onto their progeny. Those who couldn't survive did not. Hence their species changed to best fit the environment. Or died out altogether. Species whose progeny had useful mutations added to the adaption, or subtracted from it, enabling better 'fitness', and hence more children of their own. And so it went on, from millennium to millennium. Leading to the world we experience today. But this adaptive/evolutionary process still goes on.

This is a simplistic explanation. I would write more, but I have other things to do.